## WEEKLY FINANCIAL SERVICES REPUBLICAN ROUND-UP

## MESSAGING RESOURCES/POLLING UPDATE

Democrats Continue To Engage In Budget Gimmicks To Hide Their Out Of Control Spending. Even though taxpayers now own at least 80 percent of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, the Obama Administration continues to not account for the cost of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac in the budget. Fannie and Freddie should no longer be treated as private companies since they rely on taxpayer dollars to fund their operations. The Administration must place them on budget in order to allow taxpayers to know the exact amount of the GSEs' liability. Taxpayers deserve transparency and to know the exact dollar amount they are on the hook for. Keeping Fannie and Freddie off the budget serves as a gimmick to hide the real cost of their conservatorship.

Democrats' Agenda Continues To Create Uncertainty That Is Paralyzing Economic Activity And Killing Jobs. The Democrats' ever changing agenda is creating an uncertain and conflicting regulatory environment that is discouraging financial institutions from lending and small business owners from investing and opening a new business or expanding. Financial institutions and small businesses not only have to worry about tax increases, but also changes to a government run health care system, the creation of a so-called consumer financial protection agency, and a cap and tax energy policy. In addition, the Administration continues to change its position on many of its proposals. Market participants need certainty about rules, regulations and cost of doing business.

Economic Recovery Depends On Regulatory Consistency Regarding Bank Lending. Financial institutions continue to operate in an uncertain regulatory climate that is suppressing lending. Washington is encouraging banks to lend more, while at the same time bank examiners are applying restrictive standards which inhibit bank lending.

Polling:

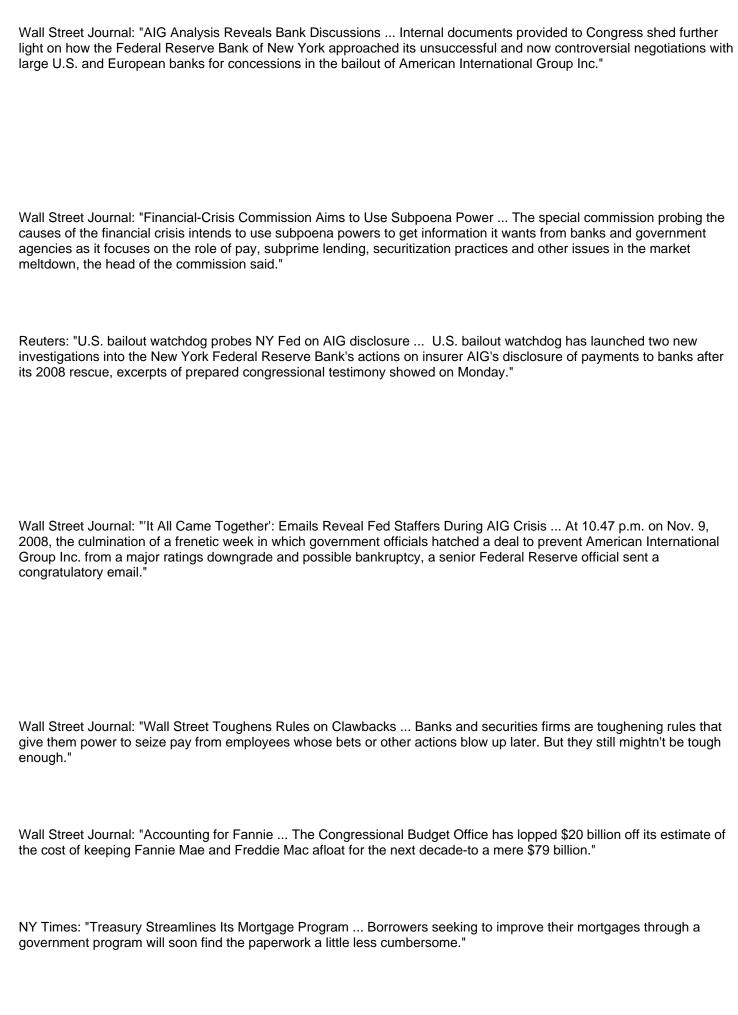
Rasmussen: "49% Rate Obama's Handling of Economy as Poor"

Rasmussen: "Americans Support Obama Plan to Tax Bailed-Out Banks... Most Americans favor the new effort by President Obama to recover the bailout money by taxing the nation's largest banks. However, most only want the banks who received bailouts to pay the tax and think that other bailed-out institutions like Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac also should be taxed."

ON THE HORIZON

Friday, February 5: The Full Committee will convene for a joint hearing with the Small Business Committee entitled "Condition of Small Business and Commercial Real Estate Lending in Local Markets" at 10 am in room 2128 Rayburn.

WEEKEND MUST-READS



## COMMITTEE REPUBLICANS IN THE NEWS

Rep. Jeb Hensarling gave this statement regarding the state of the union address, he gave this interview on economic recovery and issued these press releases: Hensarling Statement On President's State of the Union Speech; Hensarling: Democrat Spending a Fiscal Tsunami

Rep. Patrick McHenry gave this video commentary on Secretary Geithner's testimony on AIG.

Rep. Spencer Bachus issued this press release: Bachus: AIG Cover Up Continues